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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 745
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor Senator Fred Thompson for his
meritorious service as a member of the United
States Senate.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow
legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and
unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to this
great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fred Thompson's illustrious career in the United States Senate will
come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the current session, as he has announced his
retirement from that august Body; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson has for many years been a prominent and highly
influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of America, and he has served his
constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and
expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the good people of this state first evinced their great faith in the
political and governmental capabilities of Fred Thompson by electing him as their Senator to fill

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an unexpired term; two years later, the people of Tennessee reaffirmed their belief in Senator Thompson when he was elected to a full term, garnering more votes than any candidate for office in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, during his years in the Senate, Senator Thompson has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, he is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and his service as a member of the powerful Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the National Security Working Group, and the prestigious Council on Foreign Affairs; and

WHEREAS, a leader among leaders, he was elected in 1997 as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, making him among the most junior senators in history to serve as chairman of a major Senate Committee, and he served honorably in that position until June of 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his Chairmanship, Senator Thompson's committee actively pursued an agenda aimed at the laudable goal of producing a smaller, more efficient, and more accountable government; a tireless proponent of progress, he has been a champion for his constituents' needs, and his actions precipitated remarkable benefits for the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lawrenceburg, Senator Thompson earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy from Memphis State University in 1964 and his law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1967, after working his way through school; and

WHEREAS, two years after law school, he was named an Assistant United States Attorney and, at the age of 30, gained national prominence when he was appointed Minority Counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, where he served in 1973 and 1974; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Senator Thompson took the case of a Tennessee Parole Board Chairman fired under suspicious circumstances, and his work helped to expose a clemency scandal and led to positive reform in Tennessee government; and

WHEREAS, he later starred as himself in a movie about the episode, *Marie*, which brought him a new side career as an actor; he has received much acclaim and many awards for his acting in eighteen films, which has included rolls in blockbusters such as *In the Line of Fire*, *Die Hard II*, and *The Hunt for Red October*; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson's numerous other notable endeavors include his service as Special Counsel to both the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and authoring a book of his Watergate memoirs, *At That Point in Time*; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Fred Thompson is most appreciative of the great love and companionship he shares with his family, as he is a devoted father and grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson's announcement of his retirement from the United States Senate has left a void that will not easily be filled, and his considerable talents and energies will be dearly missed by his political peers and the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Senator Fred Thompson for his eight years of meritorious service to Tennessee and the United States of America as a member of the United States Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Senator Thompson our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Senator Thompson as a token of our esteem with this final clause omitted from such copy.